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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213624

FM CONNIE GRICE FOR AMB YOUNG AND ED MEZVINSKY

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 14076 ACTION STATE SEPT 7.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 14076

FOR EA/ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP, US

SUBJECT: NEW HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP INVITES AMERICAN VISIT

1. SUMMARY: FORMER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL EXTENDS INVITATION
FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND SENATOR KENNEDY TO VISIT THE
PHILIPPINES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN FORMAL
LAUNCHING OF HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS LED BY DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS
OF MODERATE, LEGAL OPPOSITION. PLEASE ADVISE. END SUMMARY.

2. FORMER PRESIDENT MACAPAGALCAME TO LUNCH SEPTEMBER 5
LARGELY AT HIS INSTIGATION. HE ARGUED THAT DEMOCRACY, WHILE
DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE PHILIPPINES, IS IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED
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PAGE 02 STATE 213624

ANIMATION WITH MARCOS IN FIRM COMMAND UNDER MARTIAL LAW
DESPITE HIS ELECTIVE TERM OF OFFICE HAVING LONG SINCE RUN
OUT. THE POPULATION, INCLUDING EVEN THE MILITARY AND POLICE
FROM FIELD GRADE DOWN, IS DISGRUNTLED BUT COWED BY PHYSICAL
AND ECONOMIC FEAR AND WATCHFULLY AWAITS SOME DECISIVE TURN
WHEREIN IT CAN DECLARE ITSELF AGAINST AUTHORITARIANISM.
CURRENT MARCOS HUMAN RIGHTS AND ELECTORAL PROMISES REPRE-

SENT LITTLE MORE THAN HIS CONCERTED EFFORTS FURTHER TO DIDDLE THE U.S. INTO CONTINUING TO SUPPORT HIM. AT THE SAME TIME AMERICAN PRESSURE SUFFICIENT TO FORCE MARCOS TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY PRESENTS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO AN EVENTUAL EXPLOSION OF PHILIPPINE SOCIETY. DISSENTERS, AS OPPOSED TO DISSIDENTS, LOOK TO THE U.S. TO BE TOUGH WITH MARCOS IN THE PURSUIT OF HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. MEANWHILE, AMONG THESE ELEMENTS THE U.S. IMAGE HAS NEW LUSTRE THANKS TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S FIRM STAND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. PRESSED, MACAPAGAL CONCEDED THAT HE AND HIS DISSENTING COLLEAGUES HOPE THAT THE USG WILL CONDITION FURTHER IMPORTANT ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES (THEY CONSIDER THE U.S. MILITARY BASES EXPENDABLE) UPON FREE ELECTIONS TO BE MEDIATED, EVEN SUPERVISED, BY THE U.S. I SUGGESTED THAT THE SHAPE AND DIRECTION OF ANY SOCIETY AND POLITY MUST EVOLVE FROM WITHIN ITSELF, AND EVEN GRANTING THAT THE U.S. IS NOT WITHOUT INFLUENCE, HE SHOULD NOT EXAGGERATE OUT SHORT-TERM POSSIBILITIES FOR FACILITATING SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS REFORMS ABROAD.

4. UPON DEPARTING MACAPAGAL LEFT THE FOLLOWING SELF-EXPLANATORY NOTE REFERRING TO THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHILIPPINE ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (POHR), AND REQUESTING THAT ASSISTANCE IN SOUNDING OUT UN AMABASSADOR
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PAGE 03 STATE 213624

YOUNG OR SENATOR KENNEDY AS TO THEIR AVAILABILITY TO BE GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER AT THE FORMAL LAUNCHING OF THE ORGANIZATION AT SOME CONVENIENT DATE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN 1977.

5. BEGIN TEXT: THE PHILIPPINE ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (POHR) WAS ORGANIZED AND INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES IN AUGUST, 1977 AND IS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE INCORPORATORS, THE FOLLOWING WERE ELECTED AS THE TOP OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT, HON. CALIXTO O. ZALDIVAR, MASONRY GRAND MASTER AND FORMER JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT.
VICE PRESIDENTS, HON. LORENZO TANADA, FORMER SENATOR;
HON. SALVADOR P. LOPEZ, FORMER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CHAIRMAN OF THE UN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES;
HON. JOSE ALEJANDRINO, CAREER PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR WHO WAS ONE OF THE TRAINEES IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN 1946.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ATTY. EMMANUEL T. SANTOS,

DELEGATE TO THE 1971 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.
TREASURER, PASTOR CIRILO RIGOS OF THE UNITED CHURCH
OF THE PHILIPPINES.

THE POHR AIMS TO UPHOLD, DEFEND, AND PROMOTE HUMAN
RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES. ITS FORMATION WAS INSPIRED
BY THE GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY OF PRESENT JIMMY
CARTER IN THE PURSUIT OF WHICH THE POHR HOPES TO ASSIST.

ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE ORGANIZATION EMBODIED IN
ITS ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION IS TO COLLABORATE WITH
AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND MOVEMENTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

IN THE MEETING OF ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON AUGUST
25, 1977, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT ALTHOUGH THE
ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN IN OPERATION IT HOLD A FORMAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 213624

LAUNCHING TO WHICH SHALL BE INVITED AS GUEST OF HONOR
AND SPEAKER AN EMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPION FROM ABROAD.

THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE FORMED TO CARRY OUT
THIS RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD DECIDED UNANIMOUSLY TO
SELECT AS GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER EITHER SENATOR
EDWARD KENNEDY, JR., OR UN AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG OR
SUCH OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE AS PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER,
IF HE SO WISHES, MAY PICK.

THE ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S. EMBASSY WILL BE HIGHLY
APPRECIATED IN THE MAKING OF SOUNDINGS TOWARDS THE
DETERMINATION OF THE GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER WHO MAY
FIX A DATE CONVENIENT TO HIM AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE WITHIN
THE YEAR 1977. AFTER AN ARRANGEMENT INCLUSIVE OF
RELEVANT DETAILS IS THEREBY MADE, THE FORMAL INVITATION
OF THE POHR WILL BE EXTENDED TO THE GUEST OF HONOR AND
SPEAKER. END OF TEXT.

6. COMMENT: THE NEW HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IS THE
SAME GROUP WHICH SPONSORED THE "FILIPINO PEOPLE'S
CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS," WHICH TOOK PLACE AUGUST 20
JUST PRIOR TO THE WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE
(MANILA 13099). WHILE ITS INFLUENCE UNDER MARTIAL LAW
IS LIMITED LARGELY TO MORAL PERSUASION, THE GROUP IS AN
IMPRESSIVE COALITION OF THE NON-VIOLENT, MODERATE, LEGAL
OPPOSITION. ITS MEMBERS INCLUDE MANY FORMER LEADERS OF
THE LIBERAL PARTY (MACAPAGAL, TANADA, SALONGA, KALAW,
RODRIGO), PROMINENT AND THOUGHTFUL INTELLECTUALS SUCH
AS S.P. LOPEZ, AND CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT OPPOSITIONISTS.
ITS PRESIDENT, FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE CALIXTO
ZALDIVAR (A MACAPAGAL APPOINTEE WHO REACHED MANDATORY
RETIREMENT AGE IN 1974), HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE LEGAL
STRUGGLE AGAINST MARTIAL LAW. THE GROUP ADVOCATES THE
IMMEDIATE LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW, REMOVAL OF ONE-MAN RULE,
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PAGE 05 STATE 213624

AND FREE AND HONEST NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

7. THE INVITATION WAS CLEARLY THE MAIN PURPOSE OF MACAPAGAL'S APPROACH AND MERITS, IN MY VIEW, A CONSIDERED REPLY. WE OF COURSE SHOULD CONVEY THE INVITATION TO SENATOR KENNEDY, AS REQUESTED. THE SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE OF PARTICIPATION BY A SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL IN THE POHR INAUGURATION IS ANOTHER MATTER WITH MORE SIGNIFICANT POLICY IMPLICATIONS. SOME SUCH VISIT LATER THIS YEAR COULD HAVE ADVANTAGES IN TERMS OF UNDERLINING HERE AND IN THE U.S. OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION OF THE PHILIPPINES. I WOULD ENVISAGE A BROADLY FOCUSED STOCK-TAKING VISIT ONE OR TWO MONTHS AFTER HOLBROOKE'S VISIT THIS MONTH. PARTICIPATION IN THE POHR INAUGURATION CEREMONIES COULD THUS BE PART OF A MORE GENERAL CONSULTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE GROUPS.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO MACAPAGAL. STULL UNQUOTE VANCE

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